

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application, Claims 1-7 having been amended. Support for amended Claims 1-7 can be found, for example, in the claims, drawings, and specification as originally filed.¹ No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mowery et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,136,950; hereinafter “Mowery”) in view of Huang et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0111771; hereinafter “Huang”); and Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mowery in view of Huang and in further view of Sakurai (U.S. Patent No. 6,832,104).

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mowery in view of Huang, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 1 recites novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a PC card including, *inter alia*:

...a communication control unit configured to control communication between said information processing apparatus and a function control unit of said PC card, communication between said information processing apparatus and a function control unit of said additional card, and to recognize memory space of said PC card and memory space of said additional card; and

an area builder unit configured to recognize the location of an attribute area for storing card property information and card configuration information in the memory space of each of said PC card and said additional card, build a global card information structure area and a global register area in the attribute area of said PC card, locate the card information structure of said additional card in said global card information structure area together with a card information structure of said PC card, and ***perform an address control operation in order to***

¹ See specification, page 14, lines 14-20.

locate the card configuration information of said additional card in said global register area together with a card configuration information of said PC card,

wherein said area builder unit performs said address control operation when power is supplied to said PC card, and said communication control unit transmits an initialization completion notification signal, which notifies that said card information structure is ready for reading, when said address control operation is completed.

Independent method Claim 5 recites substantially similar features. Thus, the arguments presented below with respect to Claim 1 are also applicable to independent Claim 5.

Mowery describes a removable passive adaptor for multiple types of flash media cards.² Mowery further describes connection methods for cards with an information processing function with an adaptor for flash media cards.

Huang describes a method for controlling the operation of expansion cards.³ Huang further describes that the sockets 806-1 and 806-3 are connected in parallel and do not connect serially, and that the control method includes detecting the presence of the expansion card, and then enabling a selected reader of the integrated controller associated with the expansion card.⁴

However, Mowery and Huang fail to teach or suggest “an area builder unit configured to...***perform an address control operation in order to locate the card configuration information of said additional card in said global register area together with a card configuration information of said PC card,***” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Furthermore, Mowery and Huang fail to teach or suggest “wherein...said communication control unit ***transmits an initialization completion notification signal, which***

² See Mowery, Abstract.

³ See Huang, Abstract.

⁴ See Huang, Fig. 8C and Abstract.

which notifies that said card information structure is ready for reading, when said address control operation is completed,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

An advantageous feature of Applicants’ initialization completion notification signal is that a problem of the PC being unable to recognize other cards with the initial state address structure when the power supply is initialized is solved due to the cards each having an information processing function and being connected *serially*.

In contrast, Huang describes a *parallel* connection which technically differentiates the need for an initialization completion notification signal because of register controls. This parallel connection requires an altogether different method for control logic described by Huang during the “power on” state.⁵

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 5 (and claims depending therefrom) patentably distinguish over Mowery and Huang.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants note that Claim 4 is dependent on Claim 1, and is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Furthermore, Sakurai fails to cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Mowery and Huang.

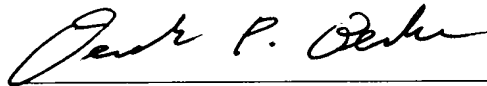
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

⁵ See Huang, “lock function” in paragraphs 0064-0067.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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